

RESOURCES, ENERGY AND TOURISM PORTFOLIO
Additional Estimates 2008–09 (February 2009)

Written Questions on Notice

Q No	Senator	Agency	Question	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
<i>Number of SES positions</i>						
<u>AR-1</u>	Humphries	DRET	How many SES positions were there in this department as at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 November 2007 • 26 February 2009 	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>ETS and Victorian power stations and WA domestic gas prices</i>						
<u>AR-2</u>	Bushby	DRET	Would the Department agree with the Victorian electricity industry that, under an ETS, half the power stations in Victoria will close within 5 years as they are too old to be updated? What impact will an ETS have on domestic gas prices in WA?	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>Uranium</i>						
<u>AR-3</u>	Bushby	DRET	With regards to uranium mining in Australia, with the exception of Queensland: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much will mining of uranium increase GDP to 2030? • What could it be (in terms of GDP) if Queensland also exported uranium? What expenditure has there been in the exploration of uranium for each state and territory for the period 2001 to February 2009? Can you break this down by year? What does the Department estimate the spot price of uranium to be in February 2010 and February 2011? Can the Department provide up-to-date statistics pertaining to how much uranium is exported annually from Australia and to which countries these exports go? How much CO2 does this displace from that that would otherwise be emitted from coal-fired power stations?	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>Oil and gas</i>						
<u>AR-4</u>	Bushby	DRET	What is the current capacity of Australia's oil and gas reserves in the areas where	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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			<p>economically viable resources have been located?</p> <p>What is the capacity and dollar value for each known reserve?</p> <p>What percentage of Australia's onshore and offshore frontier areas are covered by petroleum permits?</p> <p>What are the projected export sales of gas for the period 2009-2015?</p> <p>What is the Rudd Government planning to do to encourage domestic production of petroleum so as to offset the costly importation of this resource in particular?</p> <p>What will the Rudd Government do, as a matter of priority, to reduce the skills shortage in the oil and gas industries?</p> <p>What is the Rudd Government doing to secure Australia's critical energy infrastructure projects from possible acts of terrorism?</p> <p>What plans does it have in place to protect Australia's oil supply routes?</p>			
<i>Tourism Division staffing</i>						
<u>AR-5</u>	Ronaldson	DRET	<p>How many staff are currently employed by the Tourism division of the Department?</p> <p>How many staff have resigned since December 2007 (following the change of Government)?</p> <p>What amount from the 2008/09 Federal Budget has been allocated to wages and salaries of staff in the Tourism division?</p> <p>How many Departmental Liaison Officers (DLOs) with responsibility for the Tourism division are currently working in the Minister's Office?</p> <p>How many Tourism division staff have been employed in the Minister's Office as DLOs since December 2007?</p>	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>Tourism and the global financial crisis</i>						
<u>AR-6</u>	Ronaldson	DRET	<p>What revised forecasts has the Department made for the tourism industry in the wake of the GFC?</p> <p>What downturn is the Department anticipating in the domestic tourism market in the wake of the GFC?</p> <p>What downturn is the Department anticipating in the international tourism market in the wake of the GFC?</p>	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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<i>National Tourism Incident Response Plan (NTIRP)</i>						
<u>AR-7</u>	Ronaldson	DRET	<p>When was the NTIRP last reviewed?</p> <p>When was the last meeting of the NTIRP Monitoring Group?</p> <p>How many Tourism division staff have been allocated to the management and updating of the NTIRP?</p> <p>The RET website lists October 2005 as the last time the NTIRP Activation Level was changed. In the time since, has there been any meeting of the Monitoring group? If not, why not?</p> <p>Why has there been no downgrade in the Activation level since it was elevated to Green in the wake of the Avian flu outbreak?</p>	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>Tourism Industry Accreditation Scheme</i>						
<u>AR-8</u>	Ronaldson	DRET	<p>What progress has been made towards a national tourism industry accreditation scheme?</p> <p>At Senate Estimates in February 2008, Ms Tania Constable backed the Minister's commitment that an accreditation scheme would be in place by July, 2008. Why is the scheme still not in place?</p> <p>Has advice been sought from business and industry stakeholders?</p> <p>To what extent have each of the state and territory governments been involved in developing this scheme?</p> <p>What organisations have been consulted?</p> <p>What direction has the Minister given to the Tourism Division for this scheme's creation?</p> <p>What deadline has been set in place for the establishment of the scheme?</p>	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<u>AR-9 to AR-23</u> see oral questions on notice below						
<i>ZeroGen</i>						
<u>AR-24</u>	Johnston	DRET	<p>How much Commonwealth funds have gone into the ZeroGen project in Queensland?</p> <p>Is the Government aware of recent job losses from ZeroGen?</p>	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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Oral Questions on Notice

Q No.	Senator	Agency	Hearing date	Question	Proof Hansard Page	Date answered	Date sent to Senator	Additional Information
<u>AR-1 to AR-8</u> see written questions on notice above								
<i>NTIRP activation for global financial crisis</i>								
<u>AR-9</u>	Ronaldson	DRET	26/02/2009	<p>Senator RONALDSON—When were those informal discussions between the monitoring group members and, I presume, the department? When did those informal discussions take place in relation to a course of action?</p> <p>Mr Tucker—In relation to the Victorian bushfires?</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—No, in relation to the global financial crisis.</p> <p>Mr Tucker—I could not pinpoint the exact date as to when they started, but we have been in contact with them over quite an extended period as the global financial crisis has unfolded.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—Given that the operations of the monitoring group I presume are public to the extent of when meetings et cetera take place, can you take on notice when those discussions were held, whom they were held with, and any correspondence between the parties in relation to a decision to not implement the NTIRP in relation to the global financial crisis.</p> <p>Mr Tucker—If I might clarify your request, we will of course take your question on notice. We have made clear that this was not a formal decision. It was a discussion amongst parties and we will, as you request, give you the details of the time and format in which those discussions took place.</p> <p>Ms Madden—Before leaving this, could I also just point out</p>	E48-E49	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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				that the SARS crisis was in 2003. I made an error there. That was the last formal comprehensive review of NTIRP. There was an internal review conducted by the former Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources in 2007.				
<i>NTIRP review and recommendations</i>								
<u>AR-10</u>	Ronaldson	DRET	26/02/2009	<p>Ms Madden—There was an internal review of the effectiveness and value of NTIRP in 2007. I am just confirming that.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—What was the outcome of that internal review?</p> <p>Ms Madden—I would have to take the details of that on notice as well.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—Did you think it was worth while continuing with? Was that the outcome of the internal review?</p> <p>Ms Madden—I understand that to be the case, yes.</p> <p>Mr Tucker—There were a number of recommendations that arose from the review, and we are in the process of implementing those now.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—What were those recommendations?</p> <p>Mr Tucker—The recommendations had to do with streamlining some of the processes.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—Would you provide that on notice, because clearly the response planned to a major event is a matter of national interest. Could you also provide the committee with those recommendations.</p> <p>Ms Madden—Yes, we can.</p>	E49	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>NTIRP activation levels</i>								
<u>AR-11</u>	Ronaldson/ Bushby/ Eggleston	DRET	26/02/2009	<p>Senator RONALDSON—The activation level, which I understand is the threat level, has not been downgraded or changed since October 2005. Are there any plans to review that to a green level or something?</p> <p>I do not pretend to fully understand the activation level.</p>	E49-E50	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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				<p>Mr Tucker—The purpose of our consultations with the members is to gather their views about the impact—I refer to the bushfires in particular here—of the bushfires on the tourism industry and make a decision about whether the level of activation needs to change.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—What is the current level of activation?</p> <p>Mr Tucker—The current level of activation is green, but it is under review.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—Which means what?</p> <p>Mr Tucker—The information that we have received is that there is clearly international media coverage about the fires. There is no evidence of media coverage deterring people from coming to Australia, but clearly people reading about the fires might be postponing their travel arrangements.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—Was the activation level set at green because of the Victorian bushfires?</p> <p>Mr Tucker—No, it has been at green for some time.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—What does green mean in terms of the plan? If you set something at green what is that saying?</p> <p>Ms Madden—There is a formal description, which we can provide on notice. But it means ‘status normal, travel to Australia’, and the perception of travel to Australia is positive.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—So, green is like a green traffic light in a sense?</p> <p>Ms Madden—Going to the bushfire example again, which is currently under discussion, there is a proposal that the green be moved to a more amber setting, at least for some parts.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—There are three levels, are there?</p> <p>Ms Madden—Yes, there is green, amber and red.</p> <p>Senator EGGLESTON—Can you give us any examples of when the system warning has been red?</p> <p>Ms Madden—To my knowledge, it has never been red.</p> <p>Mr Tucker—To my knowledge, it has not been red, but perhaps we could take on notice to investigate whether it has been red.</p>				

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<i>National Tourism Crisis Response Plan – 2003 criteria</i>								
<u>AR-12</u>	Ronaldson	DRET	26/02/2009	<p>Ms Madden—We will confirm the exact historical rating of this. My understanding, although I was not working in the area, is that because of the impact of SARS, particularly on transitional areas for travel to Australia through the Asian hub airports, there was a strong perception—particularly in some of the developed country markets, from Europe and the United States—that travel to Australia was dangerous because travel to Australia occurred via areas where there was an impact of SARS. This changed the impact, the perception of travel to Australia. It affected the brand, and it was deemed necessary at that time to change the rating under the NTIRP.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—I presume one of the other criteria was the potential threat to the general tourism market as well from SARS? The inability of people to travel and therefore spend dollars, I presume, would have contributed to the amber as well?</p> <p>Ms Madden—As I mentioned earlier, it was particularly about the perception of Australia, about ‘brand Australia’, and it was in that context that the NTIRP was used and continues to be used.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—That was the only criterion, was it?</p> <p>Ms Madden—No, that was the major criterion, the perception and—</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—What were the other criteria?</p> <p>Ms Madden—At the time of the SARS attack in 2003?</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—Yes.</p> <p>Ms Madden—I would have to take that on notice. I am sorry. I do not have the historic detail.</p>	E50	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>Tourism forecasts for China</i>								
<u>AR-13</u>	Ronaldson	Tourism Australia	26/02/2009	<p>Senator RONALDSON—I take it you are trying to put a floor under that reduction, which I gather the Tourism Forecasting Council, TFC, is indicating a downturn of 11.9 per cent in the</p>	E55-E56	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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				<p>Japanese market this year. Is that right?</p> <p>Mr Buckley—I will get someone to double check that number, but it is in that order.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—I understand from the TFC figures for the Asian market that they are forecasting an increase in the Chinese market of 4.5 per cent. Is that right?</p> <p>Mr Buckley—Are you talking about tourism forecasts?</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—I will start again. Did you hear my comments about Japan?</p> <p>Mr Buckley—Yes.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—In relation to China, I understand the TFC is indicating a boost in the Chinese market of about 4.5 per cent.</p> <p>Mr Buckley—I think that is correct. I will double check my numbers for you. It just depends on whether you are talking about the financial year or calendar year, but approximately that number.</p>				
<i>Budget for Business Events Australia</i>								
<u>AR-14</u>	Birmingham	Tourism Australia	26/02/2009	<p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—In terms of Business Events Australia, can you tell me how much is committed to it this year, please?</p> <p>Mr Buckley—I think I answered that at the last Senate estimates. I will just confirm that number but my memory is \$5.6 million. That is a total commitment of resources.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—You answered last time that for 2007-08 it was \$5.737 million and you had not set the budget last time I asked you as to what it is this year.</p> <p>Mr Buckley—We maintained the budget so it would be of the same order. It varies a little depending on some of the in-market activity that gets supported. Business Events is not driven out of a single point. In each of our key markets we have people and campaigns going, but it is of that order. I will get the numbers specifically. You are asking about 2008-09?</p>	E59	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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				<p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—Yes, thank you.</p> <p>Mr Buckley—I will take that on notice if I can and just confirm the number. It shifts and changes as we test with partners but it would be something of that order. I will double check.</p>				
<i>Australia's iron ore exports</i>								
<u>AR-15</u>	Joyce	DRET	26/02/2009	<p>Senator JOYCE—I just want to know what percentage of Australia's iron ore exports they purchase.</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—My colleague here thinks that probably around 40 per cent of Chinese imports of iron ore come from Australia, but we will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE—But do about 40 per cent of Australia's iron ore exports go to China?</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—It is just a different figure. I do not have that figure immediately available, but we will find it for you.</p>	E62	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>Australia's iron ore exports</i>								
<u>AR-16</u>	Joyce	DRET	26/02/2009	<p>Senator JOYCE—What percentage of Australia's export wealth is determined by mining exports?</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—Our minerals and energy exports this year will be around \$160. As a percentage of our total exports, minerals and energy would probably account for around 60 per cent.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE—So 60 per cent of our nation's exports are minerals.</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—We can get you a statistical compendium, if you like, but I do not have one directly in front of me.</p> <p>Senator JOYCE—Can you please give me, in some sort of priority order, the ratios of where our mineral exports go to? Is China our first and major export destination?</p>	E62	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>Rio Tinto coal exports</i>								
<u>AR-17</u>	Joyce	DRET	26/02/2009	<p>Senator JOYCE—What portion of the sector does Rio Tinto have with the export of coal?</p>	E63	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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				Mr Hartwell —Of total Australian coal, both thermal and metallurgical coal? Again we can take that on notice and give you a precise figure, if you so wish. It is just that we have not come equipped with all of those specific sorts of market shares and individual companies. We will take that on notice.				
Renewable energy								
AR-18	Milne	DRET	26/02/2009	<p>Senator MILNE—No, I am not asking you how many; I am asking you how many proven pilot projects do we have in Australia to date. I am not asking how many might apply for this fund but how many proven pilots to commercialisation we have; where are they and what are they?</p> <p>Mr Clarke—So, in essence, are you asking us for a list of pilot-scale projects in technology classes that would be eligible to apply for this project?</p> <p>Senator MILNE—Yes. Where are they, how many are there and what are they?</p> <p>Mr Clarke—We do not have that list in front of us today. We would have to take that question on notice.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—Thank you. I would appreciate it if you would.</p>	E65	17/04/2009	21/04/2009	
Expenditure on carbon capture and storage								
AR-19	Milne	DRET	26/02/2009	<p>Senator MILNE—Let me come back to another one. Minister Ferguson said that it was too early to be picking winners, nor should we be picking winners. How much has the government spent on carbon capture and storage in the last year, and how much is available to be spent on carbon capture and storage this year?</p> <p>Mr Clarke—We will certainly provide you with the data you are seeking in a moment, but you have phrased the question as though that were picking winners. Was that also the question you were asking?</p> <p>Senator MILNE—When I get the figures on how much you</p>	E66-E67	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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				<p>have spent on carbon capture and storage relative to the renewables, that will answer the question itself. Will you take that on notice and provide the full range of subsidies for carbon capture and storage?</p> <p>Mr Clarke—Certainly. I will just make sure that we do understand the question to take on notice. Is it the outlays in the current financial year or is it the sum of announced programs?</p> <p>Senator MILNE—I would like both, actually: in this financial year, the sum of outlays and also the promised outlays—and that is to clean coal and to carbon capture and storage. I would also like to know how much carbon capture and storage has contributed to the Australian electricity supply in the last year.</p> <p>Mr Clarke—Let me give you the headline answers to those questions. In the government’s announced programs on clean energy technology, there is a \$500 million program that was called clean coal but which is perhaps better characterised as CCS, as with the term that you have used, and there was a \$500 million fund on renewable energy. We can give you actual expenditure and the individual year, as you have requested.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—Thank you. So that is \$500 million to clean coal and \$500 million to renewables. How many different energy sectors are in the renewables?</p> <p>Mr Clarke—There are probably five or six dominant ones and then there would be any number of ways you could break it down beyond that.</p> <p>Senator MILNE—So it is 50 per cent to one technology and 50 per cent, or less than 50 per cent, to more than five technologies.</p> <p>Mr Clarke—No. I would characterise it as 50 per cent applied to the fossil fuel source, which currently is 80 or 90 per cent of stationary energy, and 50 per cent to the emerging and important renewable area.</p> <p>CHAIR—Senator Milne, could you finish up soon?</p> <p>Senator MILNE—Okay.</p> <p>Mr Clarke—Was the second part of your question, ‘What</p>				

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				proportion of Australia's electricity is currently produced from CCS technology? Senator MILNE —Yes. Mr Clarke —Zero.				
<i>Austrade discussions</i>								
<u>AR-20</u>	Bushby	DRET	26/02/2009	Senator BUSHBY —Have departmental officers had discussions with their colleagues within the investment attraction arm of Austrade that handles strategic investment coordination projects pertaining to the resources sector? Mr Hartwell —Yes. Senator BUSHBY —Have any of those discussions extended to carbon capture and storage projects? Mr Hartwell —To my knowledge, they have not extended to carbon capture and storage projects. Senator BUSHBY —You do not sound absolutely sure about that. Mr Hartwell —I am not the person who has conducted all of those discussions and I am just saying that, to my knowledge, the ones that I have been involved in— Senator BUSHBY —Would you put it on notice to check that to see whether any of those discussions have been held in regard to those projects? Mr Hartwell —Yes.	E67	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	
<i>ZeroGen</i>								
<u>AR-21</u>	Bushby	DRET	26/02/2009	Senator BUSHBY —I will move on now to clean coal technology. In relation to the again revised ZeroGen Project in Queensland, what would the department estimate the commercial gap to be in terms of funding? Mr Hartwell —That depends possibly on the parameters of the project. The ZeroGen project has gone through many configurations and, as has been reported at previous estimates, there have been discussions with	E68	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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				<p>ZeroGen proponents. The level of ‘non-commerciality’, if you wish to put it that way, is something that would really depend on, as I say, the size of the project, the types of technologies perhaps being pursued and a whole range of other factors.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—Presumably you have had discussions with ZeroGen about the commercial gap.</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—There have been discussions about a number of various proposals that the ZeroGen consortium have put forward over recent years, yes.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—Are you able to tell the committee when those conversations occurred?</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—I cannot remember them all specifically. But, as I have mentioned, there have been, if you like, a number of proposals put forward in relation to—</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—Are you able to take on notice to provide the dates of any meetings you have had?</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—Yes, we can look at finding when those discussions were.</p>				
<i>Mr Nick Otter's overseas travel expenditure for the Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute</i>								
<u>AR-22</u>	Bushby	DRET	26/02/2009	<p>Senator BUSHBY—So he is interim in the true sense.</p> <p>Mr Clarke—Yes.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—Since being appointed, has he visited any other nations in relation to setting up the global institute?</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—Perhaps we could just go back to the establishment of the institute itself. Following the announcement by the Prime Minister, there was a small preparatory team in the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism, which Mr Clarke and other officers and I were involved in. We had a lot of discussions around the world, building consensus towards the establishment of the institute to address the gap that Mr Clarke outlined in the context of the recommendations by the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum and the International Energy Agency. Mr Otter was appointed from 12 January. By that time, of course, we had</p>	E69-E70	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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				<p>built quite a bit of support for the institute, and Mr Otter has continued that work. Since he has been appointed, he has made one overseas trip on behalf of the institute, continuing to build what I call a consensus around this proposal.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—Which countries did he visit on that overseas trip?</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—I do not have his full travel details in front of me, but I do recall him being in the United Kingdom and he could possibly have been in France also.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—Would you take it on notice to find that out? When you do, could you also inform the committee of the size of the delegation that went with him? Presumably he did not travel on his own—or did he?</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—On this particular trip, I believe that he did travel on his own, yes.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—Please confirm that and also provide the committee with details and a breakdown of the expenses that were incurred as a result of that trip.</p> <p>Mr Hartwell—Okay.</p>				
<i>Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute</i>								
<u>AR-23</u>	Bushby	DRET	26/02/2009	<p>Mr Clarke—We would say that we are being very successful and we are very pleased with the global response from both global participants and industry. We have, we think, a very strong list of organisations, government and private, that have agreed to be founding members of the institute.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—Are you able to provide the list of those who have agreed? Obviously, you may still be in negotiations with some and I am not asking for that detail, but can you provide the list of those who have agreed?</p> <p>Mr Clarke—The list will be announced in due course when we conduct the launch of the institute. A shortlist was announced in London in November, at that very first prep meeting. A large number of other entities have since signed. But in all cases, except one that I can recall, we have asked</p>	E70-E71	16/04/2009	16/04/2009	

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				<p>them to keep their signing confidential until such time as the Australian government announces the full list of founding members.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—I presume, with your saying that, the minister is actually invoking one of the exceptions to answering questions to the estimates committee on the basis of commercial in confidence. Would that be fair, Minister?</p> <p>Senator Carr—The officer has explained the circumstances.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—I know, but—</p> <p>Senator Carr—Did you ask me a question?</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—I am giving you the opportunity to say that you agree that information cannot be given because it actually falls in one of the exceptions to questions.</p> <p>Senator Carr—That is what the officer has just indicated to you.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—But it is not his call to do that; it is the minister's call to do that, if anybody is going to claim that they cannot answer a question.</p> <p>Senator Carr—I think you can be certain that we will be supporting officers in this way.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—I am just trying to make sure that everything is done properly. There is a list. Presumably, you are still in negotiations with other nations and organisations.</p> <p>Mr Clarke—Yes. A number of parties have signed and a number of parties are still negotiating.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—Have you approached any national governments that have said they are not interested?</p> <p>Mr Clarke—There is one I can recall whose position is that they do not wish to join as a founding member at this time and for whom, therefore, we are not continuing discussions.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—That is the only nation that you are aware of?</p> <p>Mr Clarke—Yes.</p> <p>Senator BUSHBY—Are you able to indicate which nation that is?</p>				

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				<p>Mr Clarke—I do not— Senator BUSHBY—I will ask you to take it on notice that I would like that and you can come back to me with the response, as it may be. Mr Clarke—Thank you.</p>				
<p>AR-24 see written questions on notice above</p>								